

**ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE:** \$500,000

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PROJECTS:** 7 to 10

**FUNDING CEILING:** The Federal share of the cost for any individual project will not exceed \$75,000.

**COST SHARE:** 25% cost share is required. Higher project cost sharing will be considered favorably.

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:** The Biomass Program is seeking State and local partners to help develop markets for biomass-based technologies. The EERE Office of The Biomass Program sponsors projects to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil imports and support development of technologies and markets that contribute to the economic viability of bio-refineries. Bio-refineries are private industry institutions that produce a combination of fuel, power, and other valuable products from biologically based feed stocks. In order to achieve significant market penetration of biomass technologies and bio-based products, a variety of market conditioning efforts are needed at the local, state, and regional levels of government. These include: development and implementation of innovative State and local incentives; collaborations with bio-based product manufacturers and industries to increase consumer acceptance of products, fuel, and electricity; and demonstration of initiatives that increase farmer and industrial support.

**PROJECTS REQUESTED/TECHNICAL AREA OF INTEREST:** This Technical Area's goal is to increase market penetration of biomass technologies and products. Innovative state or local incentives and projects are sought to facilitate increased markets for bio-based power, fuels, and other valuable products. It is important that success can be measured as a result of the Federal government's investment in these special State Energy Program projects. Technically defensible measurable benefits should be included in all applications. For example, identifying annual reductions in foreign oil imports along with the methodology of determination and measurement should be included. Other measurable benefits include the number of state and local Rebuild America and Clean Cities Partners that use or will use biologically based technologies and products as a result of the project. The number of Weatherization Assistance clients that have biologically based products used in the weatherization of their homes. The number of new Building America or Zero Energy homes that will be built incorporating biologically based technologies and products. The number of existing rural utility cooperatives, forest products companies, and agricultural related industries that adopt technologies, use products, or provide customer incentives that support the development of bio-refineries. Examples include:

- 1) Projects that foster increased procurement of biofuels and bio-based products by State or local government agencies and communities. Products include cleaning solvents, hydraulic fluids, lubricants, insulations, roofing materials, mulch, soil conditioners, gasoline/ethanol blends, bio-diesel blends, biomass electricity, and printing inks.
- 2) State or local tax incentives, credits, or payments that stimulate economic development through use of biobased residues from agriculture, forest products industry, municipal wastes, animal wastes, or other industrial biologically derived materials.

3) Projects that address and overcome technical barriers to using biomass as a renewable fuel or power alternative.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

1. Technical merit of the project, likelihood of success, and level of reducing U.S. foreign oil dependence. It is also important that successful reductions can be accurately measured.

**(Weight 20)**

2. Capabilities of the team as shown by past successful involvement with cost-shared industry-partnership projects as well as team members' education, experience, and previous success. Advancement of bio-based technologies that have led to increased market acceptance or penetration. If proposed, evidence of the ability to plan and host conference/workshop events. **(Weight 20)**

3. Diversity of project partners involving other energy-technology deployment programs such as educational institutions, private industry, Rebuild America, FEMP, or Zero Energy Homes. Involvement of these partners may be demonstrated by support letters, proposal development, project execution, and cost-sharing. **(Weight 20)**

4. Anticipated market conditioning benefits other than the measurable successes listed under Criterion 1. This includes but is not limited to environmental benefits, expanded employment opportunities, rural development benefits, and energy efficiency benefits as a result of the project if implemented. **(Weight 20)**

5. Cost of the proposed project accurately reflects level of anticipated project benefits. Degree to which the proposed cost share exceeds the minimum required. Quality of cost share (in-kind services such as general office costs or building values, for example, are less favorable cost-sharing means than a direct, project financial contribution).

**(Weight 20)**